

TOM A. SAMRA  
VICE PRESIDENT, FACILITIES



April 25, 2014

**COPY**

Mayor Larry Wolgast  
City of Topeka  
215 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Topeka, KS 66603

Re: Final Determination Regarding the Relocation of Retail Services  
Topeka, Kansas Main Post Office

Dear Mayor Wolgast:

In accordance with the procedures set forth at 39 C.F.R. 241.4(6), this is the final review determination of the Vice President, Facilities, of the United States Postal Service (Postal Service) with respect to the Postal Service's February 5, 2014, decision (Decision) regarding relocation of retail services from the Topeka, Kansas Main Post Office, currently located at 424 S Kansas Avenue (the Topeka MPO), to a yet-to-be determined location.

Following the Decision, the Postal Service received letters with comments and requests for review from your office, the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, the National Park Service, several other organizations and several customers (collectively "the appellants"). I have carefully considered all of the concerns expressed in each of those communications, along with relevant portions of the project file relating to the relocation proposal. While I appreciate the concerns raised, for the reasons set forth below, I will not set aside the Postal Service's Decision.

Several appellants expressed concerns relating to the historic nature of the property, particularly its association with the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*. The Postal Service appreciates the importance of that decision to the Topeka community and the nation. The Postal Service, itself an historic institution, highly values its historic properties and takes very seriously its voluntary compliance with Sections 106, 110 and 111 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the historic preservation regulations. In particular, with respect to the occasional sale of an historic post office, the Postal Service strictly adheres to the Section 106 regulations (36 CFR Part 800), which provide a comprehensive, consistent, transparent, consultative process. That process requires identifying historic properties, assessing the effects of Postal Service undertakings and, in consultation with local officials and with community input, seeking ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects on historic properties. Any sale of the Topeka MPO would be subject to the Postal Service first completing the Section 106 regulatory process.

Regarding concerns over the yet-to-be determined new location, the Postal Service will only consider relocation sites that are convenient and otherwise suitable for our customers and that will meet all postal operational needs. Additionally, if the Postal Service proceeds with selling the Topeka MPO building and a prospective purchaser makes a reasonable offer to lease right-sized space back to the Postal Service for continued postal retail operations, then the Postal Service will consider that offer. The Postal Service anticipates providing the same services at the new location that are currently provided to our customers at the existing location. The Postal Service's goal is to secure a new customer service location as close to the current site as possible and within the same

ZIP Code. Additionally, the Postal Service plans to continue services at the existing Topeka MPO until the replacement facility is open and operating as a Post Office.

While the Postal Service is sensitive to the impact of this determination on its customers and the Topeka community, I am satisfied that the Decision properly took into account community input and is consistent with Postal Service objectives. Postal Service operations are not supported by tax dollars. To be self-sustaining, the Postal Service must make decisions that ensure it provides adequate and affordable postal services in a manner that is as efficient and economical as possible.

Accordingly, I conclude that there is no basis to set aside the decision to relocate the retail services from the Topeka MPO. This is the final determination of the Postal Service with respect to this matter, and there is no right to further administrative or judicial review of this final review determination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tom A. Samra', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tom A. Samra